



15th October 2014

Dear parent,

As you know, Ofsted inspected our school in September and today they have published their report.

Ofsted gave ARK Kings Academy an overall rating of 'requires improvement'. Ofsted's assessment of our school was in line with our own evaluation – with the areas to improve outlined in the report having been identified by the school and an improvement plan put in place. The report clearly recognises the progress we have made at ARK Kings over recent months, such as the significant increase in GCSE results this summer, and outlines those areas where we must focus our efforts in order to improve further.

The inspectors are confident that the school leadership team has a clear focus on ensuring that students make the progress expected of them, and that staff are fully committed to rapidly raising standards. The report also recognises the support provided by ARK Schools – in particular the bespoke training available to class teachers and the leadership team.

Our range of our enrichment activities was highlighted as a particular strength, alongside our broad and balanced curriculum which, the report states, "is effective in preparing students for life in modern Britain". Also noted was our support for students in the next stage of their education or employment with all of our students who left at the end of Year 11 in 2014 securing a place in further education, employment or training. In addition, we were commended for our "particular strengths" in how we support our students whose circumstances make them potentially vulnerable.

While the inspectors said that achievement to date hasn't been good enough, they also saw evidence that standards are improving, particularly in reading and mathematics. This summer's GCSE results almost doubled those of the previous year, and we will continue to improve year on year. The achievements and progress of our students who are disabled, or who have special educational needs, was noted as being particularly good, and often better than students nationally.

The report highlights that our teachers have strong relationships with our students and parents, and that the quality of teaching is improving across the academy. We recognise however the need to further improve the quality and consistency of teaching and this will continue to be a priority for us over the coming weeks and months.

The behaviour of our students was another strength identified in the report with inspectors describing it as "calm and purposeful". Attendance is also getting much better although there is still room for much improvement and this will also continue to be a priority for us. Parents and students alike agree that students are safe in the academy and that the work of the academy to keep students safe and secure is "good".

I know that, in recent years, progress at ARK Kings hasn't been quick enough but we are all fully committed to rapidly raising standards, and building on the improvements highlighted in the report.



The full report can be downloaded from our school website, or the Ofsted website – www.ofsted.gov.uk - and there are also a few copies in the school office which you are welcome to come and read in school.

If you would like to speak to me about the report please contact the school to arrange an appointment.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, which appears to read 'R. Punton'.

Mr Roger Punton
Principal